WHAT I SAW IN THE CEMETERY

Into a graveyard I wandered one night when the moon was a bright crescent far in the West. 'Twas the year 1800 and the world was a happy place full of promise. From behind a slender marble shaft stepped a slender young man, about 36 years old and a native of Ireland I knew by the twinkle in his eyes. He reached forth a hand to a fair young girl, no more than 20, with soft brown eyes and light brown hair. "Margery Gregg," he whispered, "My sweet little bride". And slowly they danced until the moon sank in the West. I rested on a tombstone until the moon grew bright again --- the young man was there, but no little dancing bride. Instead he held two little boys by the hand and together they gazed down at three new graves --- Margery Gregg and her infant sons, Constans and John, the beloved ones of Roland Curtin. At last he said "Come, Rolie, Come James" and I thought I might never see him again.

But before many moons had passed -- and it was now 1814 and Roland is 50 years old -- he came with another young girl, less than half his age. Together they placed flowers on the 3 graves and Jane Gregg, cousin of Margery, wiped tears from her eyes. But the tears changed to smiles as the years rolled by and little ones came with her to put flowers on their half-brothers' graves. First to come was little Andrew Gregg Curtin and the shadow of a rotunda loomed large behind him in the light of the moon as it sank in the West. Then Constans Curtin, the second one named for his father's brother lately come over from Ireland. I shielded my eyes from the glare of hot fires behind him and my ears from the clang of metal. An eagle seemed to float in the sky above. Slowly the peace of the cemetery settled over me again and I waited quietly beside the tall marble shaft. No more noisy little boys came, instead there were 3 pert little girls -- Martha Maria in 1819, to become the wife of the good family doctor, William Irvin; Honora, in 1822, who during her short life was the wife of Dr. Allen, president of Girard College and in 1824, Margery Gregg, named by her father for his beloved young first wife. Margery Gregg came often to the graveyard, not because of her little half-brothers, but because she sensed a nearness to the Margery Gregg who had been the bride of her thorny old father, who was now 66!

Soon the little Margery Gregg Curtin, with the soft brown eyes and light brown hair, was to become a bride herself when the dashing Tom Reynolds came a-courting on his big sorrel horse. They lived in the big brick house on the corner of High Street and Spring and had many a baby, but alas, -- was it the ghost of Margery with her twins in the graveyard? were they lonely? for one after another the babies of Margery Gregg Reynolds joined them, even her twins.

As I was wandering thru the cemetery the other night in the full of the moon these were but names on the grave stones, some hardly legible after all the years -- 100 years or more since they had lived and loved on this earth. But one name stands out -- Margery Gregg --. You will find it there twice in different plots. Once as the young and happy wife of the stalwart Roland Curtin, native of Ireland and forebear of historic Americans. Second, as the honored wife of Thomas Reynolds, native of America and pillar of the Church -- he gave an Altar in her memory. And today, when the world is not such a happy place but the lives of babies are more secure, there is a third Margery Gregg with soft brown eyes and light brown hair, young and alive -- with a heritage few of us can equal. Which one is she named for I wanted to know -- Mrs. Margery Gregg Curtin or Miss Margery Gregg Curtin who became Mrs. Reynolds? I should say <u>both</u> for they meld together in memory -- those two lovely women who lived long ago.

A True Story
By
Nora Reynolds Quigley,
Great-niece of Thomas

Roland Curtin --- 1764 - 1850 --- native of Ireland

married in 1800 to

Margery Gregg --- 1780 - 1813 --- daughter of John Gregg, Cumberland Co
4 children, Roland, Jr., James, John and Constance (latter died in infancy)

married in 1814 to

Jane C. Gregg --- 1791 - 1854 --- daughter of Hon. Andrew Gregg, Bfte.

7 children

Constans --- 1817 - 1895 --- master of Eagle Iron Works
Andrew Gregg- 1815 - 1894 --- governor
Martha Maria- 1819 - 1880 --- wife of Dr. William Irvin, Bfte
Honora --- 1822 - 1851 --- wife of W. H. Allen, Girard College
Margery Gregg 1824 - 1885 --- wife of Thomas R. Reynolds, Bfte
Nancy -- 1828 - 1900 --- wife of D. D. Clarke
Julia -- 1831 - 1919